William and James Shields
A Tragic Fate from the Woods of Oregon

Notes from Email
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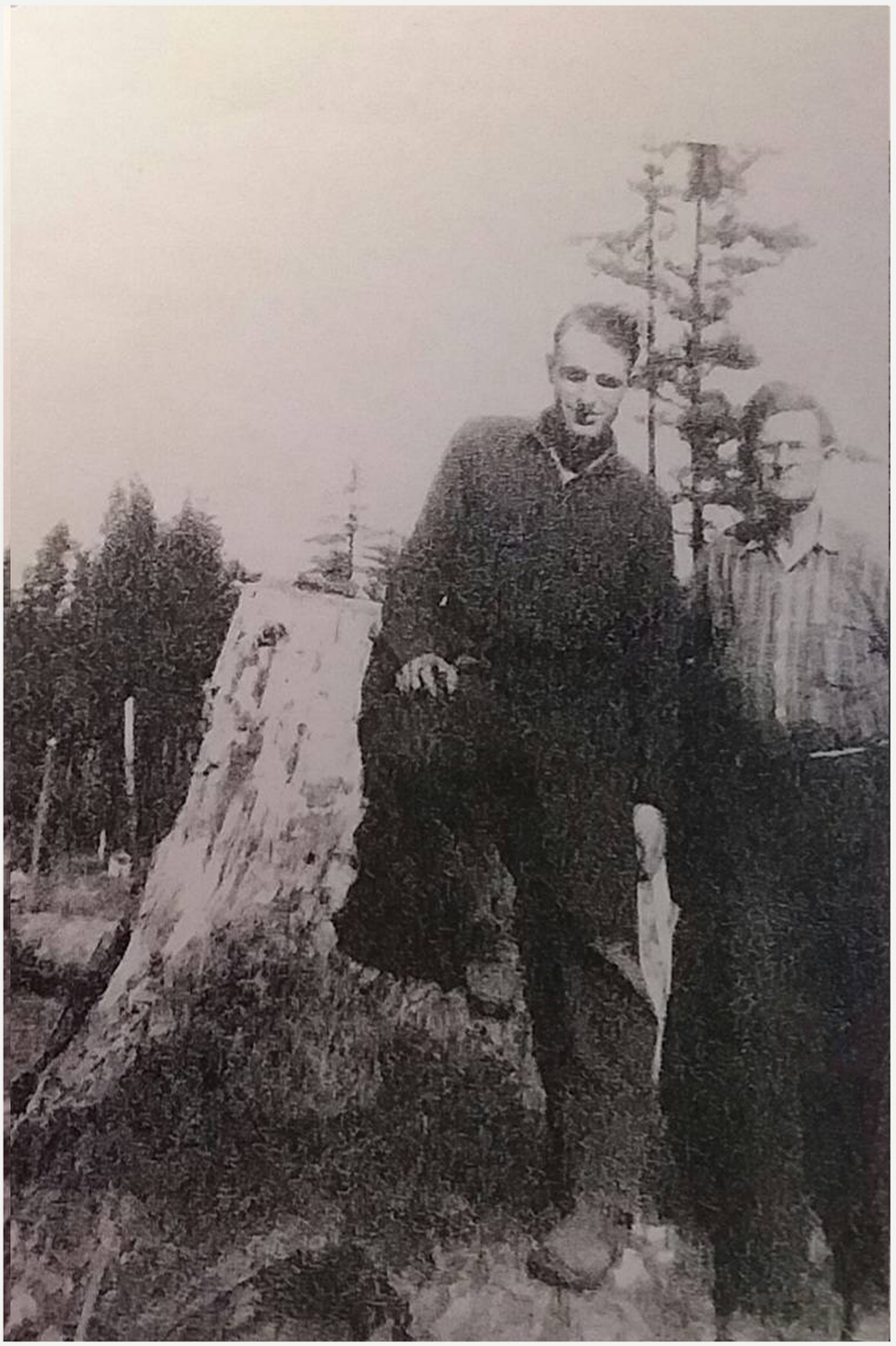
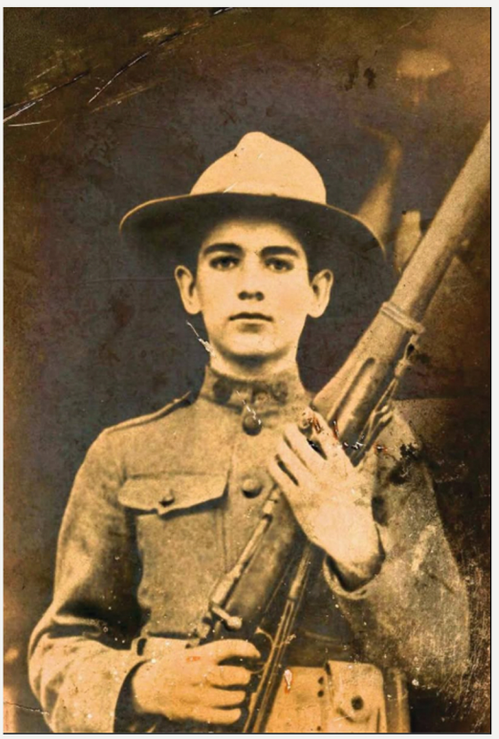
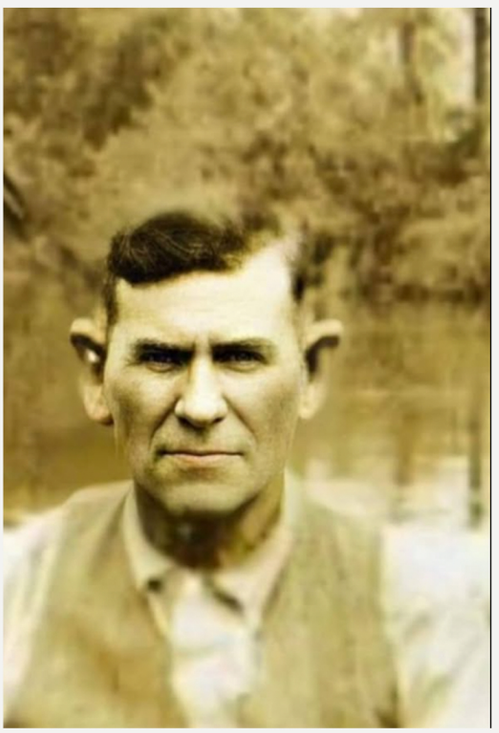
A couple of days ago, my 2nd cousin once removed, Jeffrey, made a post about my 2nd great-granduncle, Lewis Nolan Smith. After reading his post, I reflected on the tragic way his life ended. He was killed by a falling tree in the woods near Coos County, Oregon. He was 60.

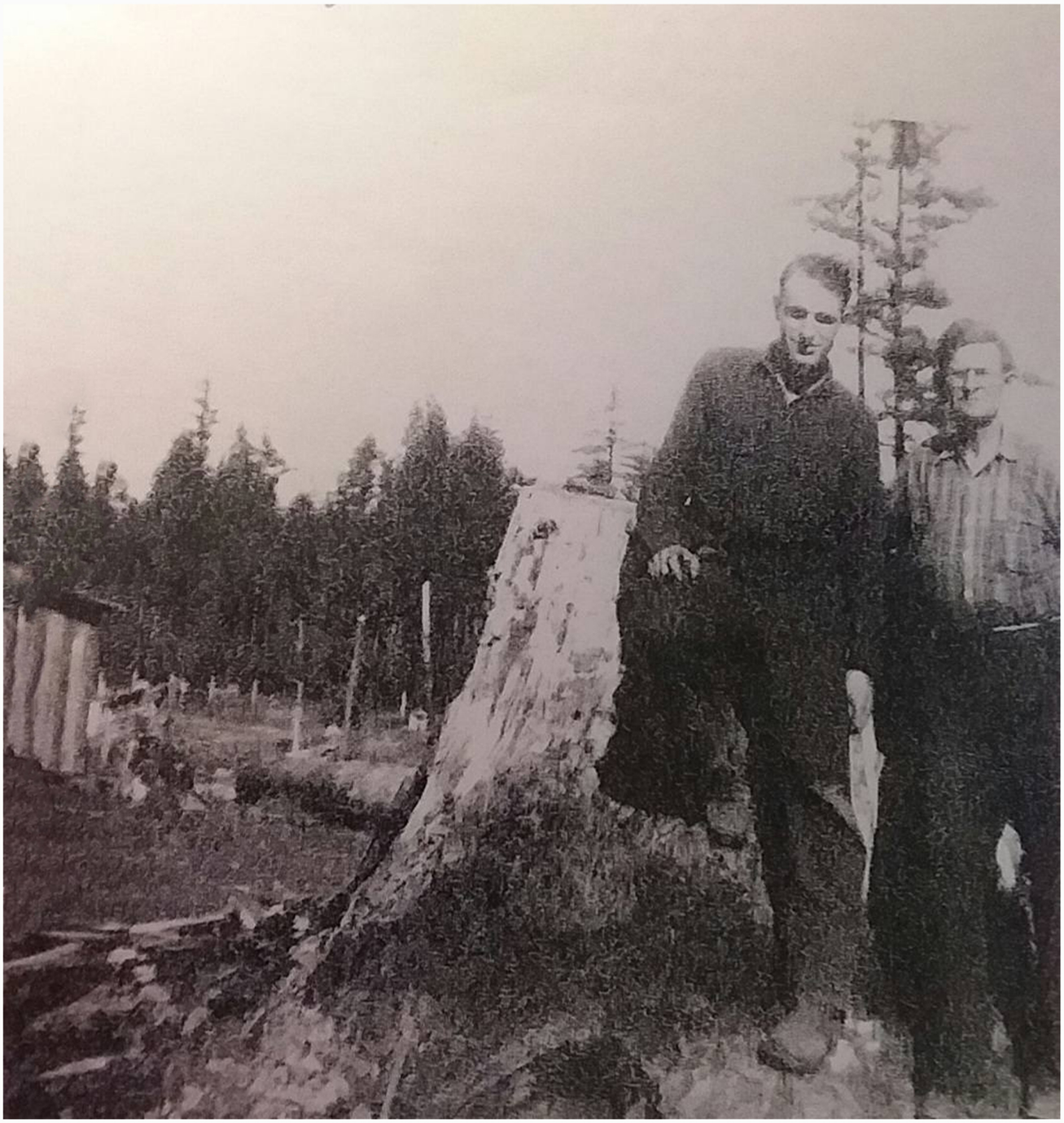
While reflecting on this, I remembered that I had two direct-line ancestors who met the same demise. In 1950, my paternal 2nd great-grandfather, William Lowery Shields, was killed by a falling tree. Four years later, his oldest son, James William Shields—my great-grandfather—was also killed by a falling tree. Both men had rheumatoid arthritis and were unable to move out of the way fast enough. Both incidents happened near Yoncalla, Douglas County, Oregon. William was 71; James was 55.

Kudos to Jeffrey for stimulating my brain.

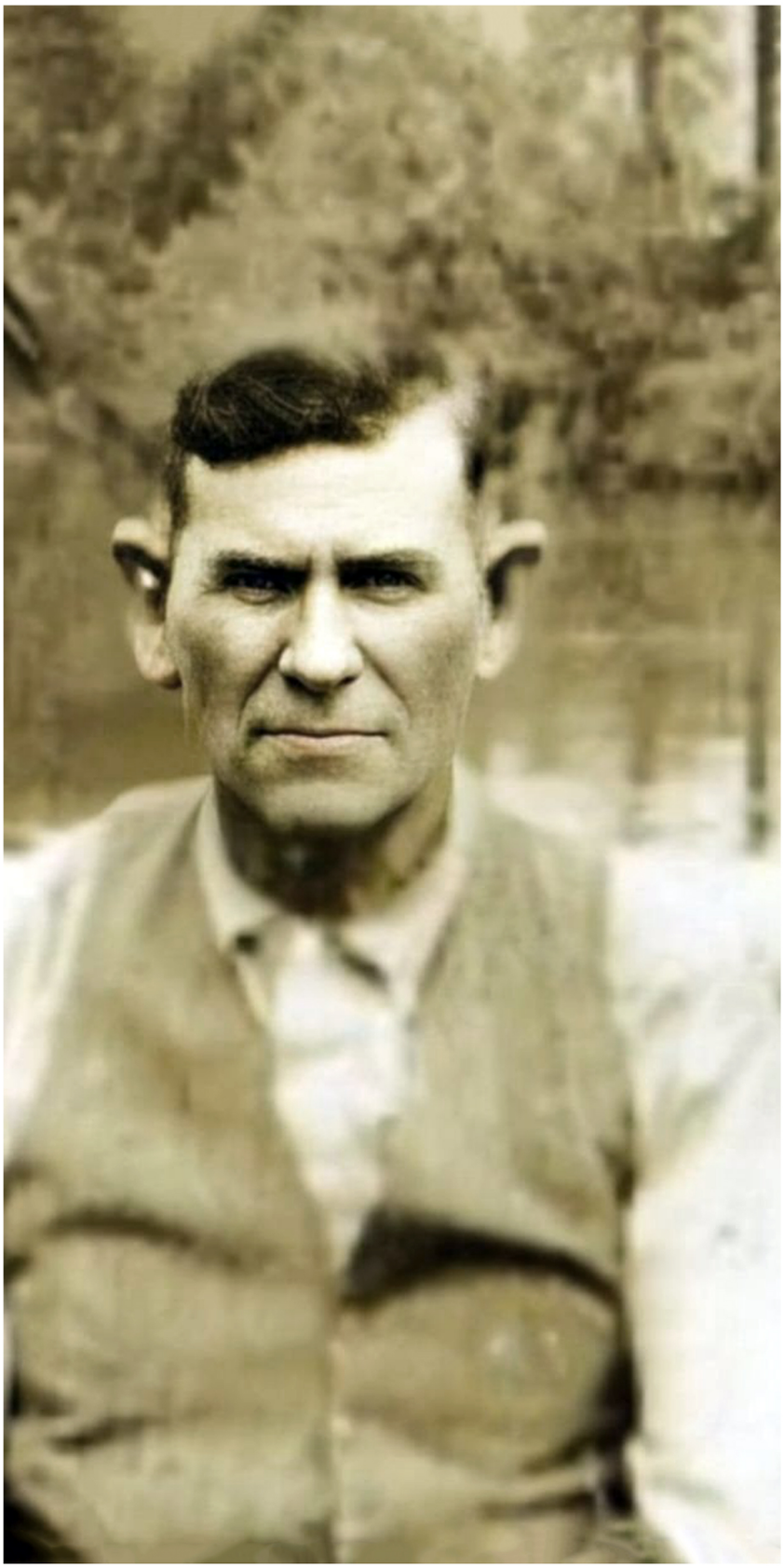








Clifford Alvin Shields Sr and William Lowery Shields
In the woods near Yoncalla, Oregon



William Lowery Shields

James William Shields